

## Andrew Jackson to James Monroe, July 8, 1816, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

**TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE (JAMES MONROE).**

Nashville, July 8, 1816.

*D'r Sir.* I have Just recd your friendly letter of the 18th of June last, The Justice done Genl Coffee is truly gratifying to me, and will be duly apreciated. The feelings you express towards the patriotic citizen and soldier who have fought the battles of their country will endear you to them, and in case of emergency ensure their services to the Government.

I feel it a duty I owe to my country to undertake any service wherein it may be thought I can be usefull, this consideration alone will induce me to enter on the duties assigned me as commissioner,<sup>1</sup> but unless my instructions will authorise a full investigation and adjustment of the teritory ceded by the creeks with the cherokees as well as the chikesaws no benefit can result to the u states, for in this convention exists all the evil and dificulty. If a delegation should be authorised from the cherokees with full powers to investigate their and the creek boundery, I have no doubt but all things could be adjusted to the satisfaction of all on the broad principles of Justice, and that security, to the lower country, and our frontier regained, that has been surrendered by the convention with the cherokees, but untill, this convention is got rid of, every foot of land obtained from the chikesaws in that quarter only tends to the agrandizement of the cherokees, by this convention all that portion of Territory belonging to the chikesaws, that could be usefull to the u states are given to the cherokees, it follows of course that the moment, the u states are invested with a right to it, it vests in the cherokees. hence the necessity of getting clear of this convention, which I think could be easily effected, by proper management if another

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convention with that tribes was ordered, the Cherokees know they never had a right to this land, they see the irritation of the whites on this subject, and the[y] begin to dread what is really to be feared, that is, there own destruction by an irratated people.

1 Commissioner, with David Meriwether and Jesse Franklin, to negotiate with the Cherokees and with the Chickasaws.

Colo. Meiggs ought to exert himself on this occasion, I fear he has not acted with his usual candeur with the goverment, or this hasty convention with the cherokees would not have been entered into. he as agent can still cause justice to be done by a surrender of this Territory for a small annuity, and candeur compells me to say to you, that from the present feelings of the people they will never permit the cherokees to inhabit the country from which the creeks have been expelled. what follows, treaties are the surpreme law of the land, must be executed, and the consequence may be, that the cherokees will be anihilated, which will compel the arm of goverment to be raised against her own citizens for this violent infraction of the treaty. This subject has caused me much reflection and has filled me with sincere regret. I hope a remedy will and may be found in another convention with this nation, and that shortly. . . .

P.S. a whiteman has been lately killed by the cherokees on the Georgia road, as soon as it was known major Russel raised four hundred men to penetrate there nation, was prevented from it by the speedy surrender of the cherokees who committed the murder. From this you can see what may result, to that nation. from the contents of letters of Colo. Lowry to major Russell, as I am informed, I have but little doubt if a proper application was made to the cherokees, they would yield up all pretentions to this Territory for a very small compensation in fact they had agreed on a boundery with Genl Coffee, in case nothing had been done at the city. you will see from the remonstrance of the citizens, their feelings on this subject, and this feeling is unanimous.